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KOENIGIA ISLANDICA **ISLAND KOENIGIA**

Island Koenigia is a small, glabrous annual with simple or sparsely branched, ascending to nearly prostrate stems that are 1-4 cm high. The narrowly elliptic, entire-margined, opposite or alternate leaves are fleshy, reddish-tinged, and 2-5 mm long. Small plants may have only a single pair of leaves. Tiny flowers occur in small clusters on top of the stems or in the axils of the upper leaves. Each flower has 3 greenish calyx lobes and 3 stamens. Petals are lacking. The fruit is a tiny 3-angled achene. Flowering in August.

Species of *POLYGONUM* have 4-5 tepals. Small specimens of *EPILOBIUM ALPINUM* may also be mistaken for *KOENIGIA ISLANDICA*, but have leaves with a prominent midvein, and flowers with a linear ovary. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.